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65510
SECT 01 OF 65510

ACTION
:DIA(15)
DISTR
CJCS DJS(03) J3(14) J5(02) J3:NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF:
ASD:ISA(10) DIA: NMIC CMC
- CSAF WASHINGTON DC
- CNO WASHINGTON DC
- CSA WASHINGTON DC
- C I A
- SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
- WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
- NSA WASH DC
FILE(1)
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255

~~NOFORN~~

TRANSIT/082040Z/082227Z/001:47TOR2202208
DE RUESBAA #0646 2202050
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P 082040Z AUG 77
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS/CZ/SCJ2-AD
RULBSAA/USNAVSTA RODMAN CZ
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/NNINTEL/NOFORN~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 0646 AUG 77
SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. ARGENTINA(AR)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424 VADM MENDIA, ARA, CHIEF
ARG DELEGATE, IADB
4. N/A
5. 770603
6. 770830
7. (b)(3):10 USC 424
8.
9.
10. (b)(3):10 USC 424
11. NA
12. (b)(3):10 USC 424
13.
14.

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15. DIRC: NO; ~~NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT; WNINTEL AS WARNING OF SENSITIVE SOURCE INVOLVED.~~

16. SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ IR CONTINS INFORMATION THAT WAS DISCUSSED WITH VADM LUIS MENDIA, Sec. 3.3(b) (1) Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

22. DETAILS: 1. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ AFTER SPENDING A FEW MINUTES ON NICETIES, THE ADMIRAL LAUNCHED INTO THE MORE SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECTS OF ARGENTINE-U.S. RELATIONS AS HE SAW THEM FROM WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE WAS SPEAKING FRANKLY WITH HIS CARDS ON THE TABLE; TO DO OTHERWISE, THE ADMIRAL ADDED, WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE TO EITHER OF US. MENDIA SAID THAT HE DOES NOT REPRESENT THE MILITARY OR NAVY IN HIS JOB, THAT IS THE NAVAL ATTACHE'S RESPONSIBILITY. HE SAID HE REPRESENTS THE JUNTA AND THEREFORE HIS CONTACTS ARE MORE WITH STATE DEPT, OFFICE OF THE SECDEF AND CONGRESS. HE STATED THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE US GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS NOT HUMAN RIGHTS BUT WHETHER ARGENTINA WILL BECOME A RIGHT WING DICTATORSHIP. HE WAS NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT IS THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. IN ANY CASE, HE FELT THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF ARGENTINA SINCE ALL EMBASSY REPORTING IS AVAILABLE TO THEM.

2. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ARGENTINA IS SINGLED OUT REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS ADDING THAT WHEN TERRORISM IS REMOVED THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM WILL DISAPPEAR. MENDIA FELT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE, OF COURSE, IMPORTANT, BUT THAT NOW A DOUBLE STANDARD EXISTS IN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOME COUNTRIES CONSIDERED IMPORTANT FOR US SECURITY ARE OVERLOOKED, WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE PUNISHED. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE MONTONEROS OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES WITH THE MISSION OF DISCREDITING THE PRESENT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT THIS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPT OF JUSTICE, SINCE THEY ARE FUNCTIONING AS A LOBBY GROUP WITHOUT HAVING REGISTERED WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH US LAW. TO HELP ARGENTINE'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE HE FELT THAT IMPORTANT PEOPLE SUCH AS TODMAN SHOULD VISIT ARGENTINA AND NOT FOR JUST 2 DAYS. WHILE IN ARGENTINA THEY COULD OBSERVE FIRST HAND THAT THE PROBLEMS OF STREET CRIME SO PREVALENT IN LARGE US CITIES SUCH AS WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK DO NOT EXIST IN BUENOS AIRES.

3. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ THE ADMIRAL SEEMED ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF THE MODERATES VERSUS THE HARD LINERS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE NAVY HE SAID THEY TENDED TO BE MORE "DURO"

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THAN "BLANDO". ALSO, BECAUSE OF THEIR TRAINING, EXPERIENCE AND SMALLER SIZE, NAVAL OFFICERS THINK VERY MUCH ALIKE AND DISTINCT FACTIONS DO NOT EXIST AS THEY DO IN THE ARMY. AS FAR AS TERRORISM IS CONCERNED THERE IS NO SPLIT ALL MILITARY ARE DUROS. HOWEVER, IN THE AREA OF LABOR POLICY THERE ARE DISTINCT DIFFERENCES. THE BLANDOS FEEL THAT THEY CAN WORK WITH OLD LABOR AND POLITICAL LEADERS (MOSTLY PERONISTS AND RADICALS) AND BRING ABOUT NECESSARY REFORM. THE DUROS (ESPECIALLY THE NAVY) FEEL THAT ALL OLD POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS MUST BE REPLACED WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW GROUP OF LEADERS. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AS FAR AS THE DUROS ARE CONCERNED, MUST BREAK COMPLETELY WITH THE PAST AND DEVELOP NEW FORWARD LOOKING LEADERS. HE CONCLUDED BY POINTING OUT THAT SINCE 1930 THE MILITARY HAD HISTORICALLY BEEN DIVIDED INTO "HARD" AND "MODERATE" GROUPS. WHILE THE HARD LINERS HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN DETERMINING NATIONAL POLICY, THE MODERATES USUALLY HAVE WON OUT.

4. ~~(C//NINTEL/NOFORN)~~ WHEN ASKED ABOUT UNITAS OPERATIONS HE STATED THAT THE ARA IS HAVING TREMENDOUS DIFFICULTY STAYING COMBAT READY. THIS IS MAINLY CAUSED BY A LACK OF SPARE PARTS WHICH MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE US, BUT WHICH NOW ARE BEING HELD UP. THE DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN UNITAS HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH HAVING ARA SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE IN AN OPERATIONAL STATUS. THE SPARE

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SECT 02 OF 65510

ACTION
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DISTR
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ASD:ISA(10) DIA: NMIC CMC
- CSAF WASHINGTON DC
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- CSA WASHINGTON DC
- C I A
- SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
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TRANSIT/082040Z/082246Z/002:06TOR2202244 ~~NOFORN~~
DE RUESBAA #0646 2202110
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P 082040Z AUG 77
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS/CZ/SCJ-2-AD
RUL6SAA/USNAVSTA RODMAN CZ
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/WNINTEL/NOFORN~~ SECTION 2 OF 2 0646 AUG 77
PARTS ISSUE DIRECTLY BEARS ON THE DECISION SINCE PARTICI-
PATION MEANS SCHEDULING A LARGE BLOCK OF OPERATIONAL HOURS
FOR A TRAINING EXERCISE. (THE ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL HOURS
TRANSLATE DIRECTLY INTO ADDITIONAL SPARE PARTS REQUIREMENTS).
HE CITED THAT THE AVIATION BRANCH OF THE ARA IS ONLY 40 PERCENT
OPERATIONAL MAINLY DUE TO SPARE PARTS SHORTAGES. HE
CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, BY STATING THAT WITH A HISTORY OF
PARTICIPATION IN 17 PREVIOUS UNITAS OPERATIONS, HE DID NOT
BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA HAD CHANGED THIS YEAR
SO MUCH AS TO JEOPARDIZE PARTICIPATION FOR THE 18TH TIME.
5. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ALSO TOOK
PLACE OVER EXPORT LICENSING, ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE BELL
HELICOPTERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO US LAW IF
30 DAYS PASS WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ONCE REQUEST IS
RECEIVED, IT IS AUTOMATICALLY APPROVED. SINCE CONGRESS
WILL BE IN RECESS DURING THIS PERIOD HE DOUBTED THAT ANY

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ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO BLOCK GRANTING THE LICENSE. HE DID NOT VIEW THIS PARTICULAR APPROVAL AS A TEST CASE LEADING TO THE APPROVAL OF THE OTHER PENDING EXPORT LICENSE REQUESTS OR FOR THE GUARANTEE OF SPARE PARTS SALES. HE DID VIEW THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT AS HELPFUL IN THAT THIS GAVE ARGENTINA ONE MORE YEAR OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE THAN THAT PROPOSED BY THE KENNEDY AMENDMENT AND ANOTHER YEAR OF DIALOG BEFORE A COMPLETE CUTOFF.

6. ~~(C/NNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF OPTION WAS ALSO DISCUSSED [Sec. 3.3(b)(1)] THIS WILL BE REPORTED IN A SEPARATE IR.

7. ~~(C/NNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ WHEN ASKED ABOUT AMBASSADOR HIDALGO SOLA'S KIDNAPPING HE FELT THAT THE TERRORISTS DID NOT HAVE HIM. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE ULTRA RIGHTIST GROUPS THAT HAVE ACTED ON THEIR OWN. HE ADMITTED THAT THESE GROUPS COULD CONSIST OF PERSONS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE MILITARY AND EVEN THAT SOME NAVAL PERSONNEL COULD CONCEIVABLY BE INVOLVED. HE FIRMLY SAID THESE GROUPS CANNOT BE TOLERATED AND MUST BE ELIMINATED.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN/NNINTEL)~~ ADM MENDIA WAS VERY FRANK IN ALL HIS DISCUSSIONS. HE APPEARED WELL AWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON AND ITS EFFECT ON HIS COUNTRY. THE ADMIRAL WILL COMPLETE HIS FIRST YEAR IN HIS PRESENT POSITION IN JAN 1978; WHETHER HE WILL RETURN TO ARGENTINA AT THAT TIME IS UNKNOWN. THE ONLY ACTIVE DUTY NAVY JOB FOR HIS SENIORITY WOULD BE THAT OF NAVY CINC. ADM MASSERA IS WELL AWARE THAT THIS DYNAMIC, INTELLIGENT FLAG OFFICER HAS MUCH POTENTIAL AND IS MASSERA'S BIGGEST THREAT TO HIS POSITION. IF MASSERA STAYS ON ANOTHER YEAR, MENDIA WILL HAVE TO STAY IN WASHINGTON OR TAKE A HIGH LEVEL CABINET POST SUCH AS FOREIGN MINISTER OR MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT VADM MENDIA WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CHOICE AS THE "FOURTH MAN" IN THE ARGENTINE GOVT, BUT THIS IS VERY UNLIKELY SINCE THE ARMY WOULD PROBABLY BLOCK SUCH A MOVE. THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD W/EMBASSY. ~~GDS DEC 83.~~

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